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South Africa:* draft resolution

International Year of Natural Fibres

The General Assembly,

Noting resolution 3/2005 of 25 November 2005 of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Noting also that the diverse range of natural fibres produced in many countries provide an important source of income for farmers, and that natural fibres can play an important role in contributing to food security and in eradicating poverty and hence in contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 2009 as the International Year of Natural Fibres;

2. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate the observance of the International Year of Natural Fibres, in collaboration with Governments, regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector and relevant organizations of the United Nations system and further invites the Food and Agriculture Organization to keep the General Assembly informed of progress made in this regard;

3. *Calls upon* Governments and relevant regional and international organizations to make voluntary contributions in accordance with the guidelines for international years and anniversaries as contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 and to lend other forms of support to the International Year of Natural Fibres;

4. *Invites* non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to and to support the International Year of Natural Fibres, in accordance with the guidelines of the Economic and Social Council;

5. *Encourages* all Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the International Year of Natural Fibres in order to increase awareness of the importance of these natural products.

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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